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# Embassy guards seen imitating diplomats

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U.S. Marine guards in Moscow fraternized with Soviet women partly because U.S. Embassy diplomats did so, according to congressional investigators.

But a report soon to be released to Congress says the Marines failed to distinguish between their prohibited Soviet contacts and those sanctioned for diplomats.

"The Marines were told they couldn't fraternize, but at the same time they saw Foreign Service officers fraternizing," said one investigator. "They didn't make a distinction, even though Foreign Service officers are required to fraternize."

The House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on International Operations report on the burgeoning sex-for-secrets scandal at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow is expected to be released to Congress later this week.

U.S. diplomats in Moscow, as part of their duties, meet routinely with Soviet citizens but are required to report the nature and extent of those contacts to their superiors. Marine embassy guards are clearly prohibited from any fraternization with Soviet citizens.

The subcommittee report concludes that Marine higher-ups and State Department officials failed to adequately communicate the distinctions.

"The anti-fraternization rules were a joke," said one investigator. "Only lip service was given to them. The Marines didn't see the clear dangers. Once again, it goes to a lack of communications with the Marines. The danger of fraternization wasn't made clear enough to the Marines."

Marine and State Department officials insist, however, that Marine guards in Moscow are regularly briefed on the dangers to national security posed by fraternization.

The report concludes that despite sophisticated security devices and procedures, the security plan in Moscow failed to take into account the possibility that Marines might fail.

Marines who fraternized with Soviet citizens were routinely transferred by Marine superiors to other foreign posts where they had a chance to continue the practice, according to investigators.

"It was Marines protecting Marines," said one close to the embassy investigation. "When this all comes out, you're going to find the anti-fraternization rules were something to get around."

The House subcommittee will hold hearings tomorrow on how Soviet agents in Moscow exploited Marine embassy guards to steal some of the nation's most closely held secrets.

Marine Sgt. Clayton Lonetree and Marine Cpl. Arnold Bracy are charged with conspiring to allow Soviet agents inside the embassy where they allegedly spied and possibly planted bugs.

Sgt. Lonetree and Cpl. Bracy were seduced by Soviet women who offered them sex for secrets, according to government prosecutors.

The congressional report concludes that new embassy security precautions are needed at Moscow and elsewhere.

The report also endorses tougher psychological screening of candidates for the Marine Corps' embassy security guard school at Quantico, Va.